

Healthcare Leadership Council.  
American Health Care Association.

# SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENTIAL VETO OF THE ESTATE TAX REPEAL LEGISLATION

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I will vote to uphold the President's veto of the wildly irresponsible estate tax repeal bill sent to his desk, and I will also continue to support changes in the law that will provide additional relief for the two percent of American families that are subject to this law.

Under current law, family farms and small business pay no Federal estate tax unless their property is worth more than \$1.3 million. Others are eligible for an estate tax exemption of \$675,000. I recently voted to raise the small business and family farm exemption to \$4 million by 2001 and with a phased in exemption of \$8 million by 2010. The general exemption would increase to \$2 million by 2001 and \$4 million by 2010.

The cost to the Treasury for this additional exemption for America's wealthiest families comes to about \$61 billion over ten years. The cost of the total-repeal bill being vetoed by the President, however, comes to \$105 billion over the first ten years, and a whopping \$750 billion when fully phased in during the next ten years.

Very few South Dakota farms or small businesses have any Federal estate tax liability whatever under current law, but I do want to make sure that exemptions are ample. What I don't want to see, however, is an estate tax repeal bill that is so terribly expensive that it makes it almost impossible for Congress to pass tax relief for middle class taxpayers, to shore up Medicare, to pay down more of the accumulated national debt or improve education.

Keep in mind that most of the budget surplus that is being talked about will not materialize for another five years or so, and prudence would suggest to us that it may never materialize at all. Thank heavens for some adult supervision from the White House at a time when Congress has been behaving like spoiled children under the Christmas tree. Supporters of this irresponsible legislation believe there is room in our budget to give multimillionaires an \$8 million tax break, but the legislation sent to the President would have broken the bank and denied relief and assistance to the other 98 percent of American families.

Once Congress concludes its partisan political finger-pointing games, it is my hope that estate tax and marriage penalty relief can be passed in a proper and careful manner that will allow for debt reduction, Medicare improvements, and a commitment to education.

## PURPLE HEART AWARDED TO SPECIALIST RAYMOND S. TESTON

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize

Raymond S. Teston. Ray is a great man, and an American hero.

Specialist Raymond S. Teston had served close to one full year of field duty and was to leave Vietnam to return home to Georgia. The night before his departure, August 12, 1969, and the following morning, "C" troop, First Squadron, 1st Calvary of the American Division was overrun while at Base Camp, Hawk Hill, Hill 29. The first wave of the attack was from rocket propelled grenades and 122 mm rockets killing several soldiers and injuring many more. Ray was critically wounded during the ensuing battle and out of the 86 men assigned, was one of only eleven who survived.

On November 5, 1999, the President of the United States of America, the Army Adjutant General and the Secretary of the Army awarded the Purple Heart to Specialist Raymond S. Teston, United States Army, for wounds received in action in the Republic of Vietnam on August 12, 1969. This is Ray's second award of the Purple Heart; his first came on April 2, 1968, just outside of the Tam Key, Vietnam.

I commend Ray Teston's courage and bravery. I thank him, and all veterans, for their service and sacrifices to our great country and for defending our freedoms. Each time I salute the flag, I like to think of heroes such as Raymond S. Teston, who symbolize all the things that are good about this country—duty—honor—faith in our democracy. Thank you Raymond S. Teston.

## SENATOR MOYNIHAN: A PROFILE IN RARE COURAGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that "Moynihan—a Profile in Rare Courage" from yesterday's Newsday in praise of the courage and commitment of Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN be incorporated into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. President, while certainly the race for the seat which Senator MOYNIHAN has left open has excited New Yorkers and the Nation, it is my desire today to simply remind the Nation what a treasure the State of New York bestowed on all of us through Senator MOYNIHAN. I am confident that I speak for all of my colleagues in the Senate when I say that his intellect and leadership will be greatly missed.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

### MOYNIHAN—A PROFILE IN RARE COURAGE (By Gray Maxwell)

As the final summer of Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan's public career comes to an end, I think back to one languid Friday afternoon three summers ago.

Not much was happening. The Senate was in recess. So Moynihan—my boss at the time—and I went to see an exhibit of Tyndale Bibles at the Library of Congress. William Tyndale wrote the first English Bible from extant Greek and Hebrew manuscripts. Moynihan was eager to learn more about a man whose impact on the English language,

largely unacknowledged, is equal to Shakespeare's.

One might wonder what Tyndale has to do with the United States Senate. Not much, I suppose. But like Tennyson's Ulysses, Moynihan is a "gray spirit yearning in desire to follow knowledge like a sinking star." He has unbounded curiosity. I'm not one who thinks his intellectualism is some sort of indictment. Those who do are jealous of his capabilities, or just vapid. In a diminished era when far too many senators know far too little, I have been fortunate to work for one who knows so much and yet strives to learn so much more.

There is little I can add to what others have written or will write about his career. But I would make a few observations. On a parochial note, no other senator shares his remarkable facility for understanding and manipulating formulas—that arcane bit of legislating that drives the allocation of billions of dollars. He has "delivered" for New York, but it's not frequently noted because so few understand it.

More important, every time he speaks or writes, it's worth paying attention. I think back to the summer of 1990, when Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Texas) offered an amendment to a housing bill. Gramm wanted to rob Community Development Block Grant funds from a few "Rust Belt" states and spread them across the rest of the country. The amendment looked like a winner: More than 30 states would benefit. Moynihan spoke in opposition. He delivered an extemporaneous speech on the nature of our federal system worthy of inclusion in the seminal work of Hamilton, Madison, and Jay as *The Federalist* No. 86.

(His speech was effective. The amendment was defeated. New York's share of CDBG funding was preserved.) What I most want to comment on is Moynihan's courage. Too many of today's tepid, timid legislators are afraid to offer amendments they know will fail.

They are afraid of offending this constituency or that special interest. They have no heart, no courage. Moynihan always stands on principle, never on expediency. He's not afraid to cast a tough vote, to be in the minority—even a minority of one. His positions on issues from bankruptcy "reform" to government secrecy, from welfare repeal to habeas corpus, from the "line item" veto to Constitutional amendments du jour, haven't been popular. But I'm confident they are right. It just takes the rest of us a while to catch up with him.

While Moynihan has been successful as a legislator, I think of him as the patron senator of lost causes (i.e., right but unpopular). Every senator is an advocate for the middle class. That's where the votes are. What I admire and cherish about Moynihan is his long, hard, eloquent fight on behalf of the underclass—the disenfranchised, the demoralized, the destitute, the despised.

T.S. Eliot wrote to a friend, "We fight for lost causes because we know that our defeat and dismay may be the preface to our successors' victory, though that victory itself will be temporary; we fight rather to keep something alive than in the expectation that anything will triumph." Eliot's wistful statement, to me, captures the essence of Moynihan. He has an unflinching sense of responsibility.

For the past quarter century, Moynihan has been the Senate's reigning intellectual. But he has been more than that. He has defended precious government institutions under attack by those who have contempt for government.

And he has been the Senate's—and the nation's—conscience. His fealty as a public servant, ultimately, has been to the truth as